

# Bug Pooter



## What you do:

- 2 Fat flexible straws
- Utility knife (X-Acto™) or scissors
- A nylon stocking
- A small, clear jar with lid
- Hammer
- Nail
- Modeling clay
- Tape
- Adult helper



## What you need:

- Step 1:** Ask an adult to punch two holes in the lid of the small clear jar. The holes should be large enough to fit the straws.
- Step 2:** Cut one straw so that the arms on either side of the bend are the same length. Cut a 2.5cm (1") square piece of the stocking and tape it onto one end of the straw. This is the mouthpiece.
- Step 3:** Stick the straw's other end into one of the holes in the lid. Seal the opening where the straw is inserted with modeling clay.
- Step 4:** Stick the short end of the second straw into the other hole in the lid and seal the opening with modeling clay. Firmly screw the lid onto the jar.
- Step 5:** Hold the opening of the long straw over a small insect. Gently suck through the mouthpiece. The insect will be drawn into the jar.
- Step 6:** Study the insect with a magnifying glass. How many legs does it have? What color is it? Can you see any hairs? Look at its antennae, mouthparts, and colour patterns.
- Step 7:** When you are finished, return the insect to where you found it.

Step 4:



Step 5:



Step 6:



Step 7:



## What's going on:

You made a pooter! A pooter is a device scientists use to pick up small objects, like insects, without hurting them. It is a miniature vacuum cleaner that uses your lungs as a power source. When you suck through the mouthpiece, you are creating a vacuum inside the jar. The air around the opening of the long straw is drawn into this vacuum and any insect near the opening will be drawn in as well.

## Now try this:

How many different types of insects can you find in a garden?

